

In the Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the performance of an electrophoretic display which comprises:

(a) at least one electrode layer,

(b) at least one display cell which is filled with an electrophoretic fluid, and

(c) at least one electrode protecting layer which is present between the electrophoretic fluid and the electrode layer;

the method comprises adding a conductive filler in the form of nanoparticles and having a volume resistivity of less than about 10^4 ohm cm into a composition for the formation of ~~an~~ the electrode protecting layer.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein said volume resistivity is about 10^2 to about 10^3 ohm cm.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size which is smaller than the range of UV-visible scattering light.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size in the range of about 5 to about 150 nanometer.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size in the range of about 10 to about 50 nanometer.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size in the range of about 15 to about 20 nanometer.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the conductive filler is selected from the group consisting of conductive metal oxide particles, carbon black, graphite, carbon

nanotube, conductive polymers, metal particles or flakes and conductive nanoclusters.

29. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28 wherein said conductive polymer is polythiophene (**PT**), polyacetylene, polypyrrole (**PPy**) or polyaniline (**PAN**).

30. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28 wherein said metal particles or flakes are silver particles or flakes.

31. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28 wherein said conductive nanoclusters are Au or Cu nanoclusters.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 wherein said conductive filler is zinc antimonate, zinc sulfide, indium tin oxide or antimony tin oxide.

33-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) An electrophoretic display which comprises

(a) at least one electrode layer,

(b) at least one display cell which is filled with an electrophoretic fluid, and

(c) at least one electrode protecting layer, which is present between the electrophoretic fluid and the electrode layer, and is formed from a composition comprising an electrode protecting layer forming material and a conductive filler, wherein the conductive filler is in the form of nanoparticles and having has a volume resistivity of less than about 10⁴ ohm cm.

56. (Currently Amended) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein said electrode protecting layer is a primer layer and said electrode protecting layer forming material is a thermoplastic, thermoset or a precursor thereof.

57. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein the conductive filler has the volume resistivity 10^2 to about 10^3 ohm cm.

58. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein the electrode protecting layer has a volume resistivity in the range of about 10^7 to about 10^{10} ohm cm.

59. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size which is smaller than the range of UV-visible scattering light.

60. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein the conductive filler particles do not absorb light in the range of about 300 to about 700 nm.

61. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size in the range of about 5 to about 150 nanometer.

62. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 61 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size in the range of about 10 to about 50 nanometer.

63. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 62 wherein the conductive filler has an average primary particle size in the range of about 15 to about 20 nanometer.

64. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein the conductive filler is selected from the group consisting of conductive metal oxide particles, carbon black, graphite, carbon nanotube, conductive polymers, metal particles or flakes and conductive nanoclusters.

65. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 64 wherein said conductive polymer is polythiophene, polyacetylene, polypyrrole or polyaniline.

66. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 64 wherein the metal particles or flakes are silver particles or flakes.

67. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 64 wherein the conductive nanoclusters are Au or Cu nanoclusters.

68. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein said conductive filler is zinc antimonate, zinc sulfide, indium tin oxide or antimony tin oxide.

69. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein said conductive filler is in a sol gel form.

70. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 69 wherein said sol gel comprises a solvent.

71. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 70 wherein said solvent is 2-butanone, acetone or isopropanol.

72. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein said conductive filler is colorless and highly transparent.

73. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 72 wherein said conductive filler has about 75% to about 95% transmission in the visible light range for a 20 μm dried film containing about 30% by weight of the conductive filler.

74. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 73 wherein said conductive filler has about 85% to about 90% transmission in the visible light range for a 20 μm dried film containing about 30% by weight of the conductive filler.

75. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein said conductive filler is zinc antimonate colloidal nanoparticles.

76. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 55 wherein said conductive filler has a concentration in the range of about 0.01 % to about 50% by weight of the total solid content.

77. (New) The electrophoretic display of Claim 76 wherein said conductive filler has a concentration in the range of about 15% to about 45% by weight of the total solid content.